longitudinally along the length of the side panels 34 such that the garment 20 can be removed from a wearer by tearing along the seam to loosen the fit of the garment. M

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace Claims 1, 16, 21, and 34 with the following amended Claims 1, 16, 21 and 34:

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1.   (Twice Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a chassis including a front panel and a back panel;

first and second side panels, each having a linear waist edge, a leg edge at least a portion of which is curved, and an average length dimension measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an overall length dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis, each of the side panels being releasably connected to the front and back panels, and defining with the chassis a waist opening and first and second leg opening;

wherein the first side panel includes first and second fastening components, the second side panel includes third and fourth fastening components, the front panel includes first and third mating fastening components engageable with the first and third fastening components, and the back panel includes second and fourth mating fastening components engageable with the second and fourth fastening components.

16.   (Amended) The absorbent garment of Claim 14, wherein said at least two pieces of material include a first non-elastomeric piece of material bonded to a second elastomeric piece of material and a third non-elastomeric piece of material bonded to the second elastomeric piece of material.

21.   (Twice Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

an absorbent chassis including a front panel and a back panel;

first and second elastomeric side panels releasably connected to the front and back panels and defining with the chassis a waist opening and first and second leg openings, each of the first and second side panels having a linear waist

edge, a leg edge at least a portion of which is curved, and an average length dimension measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an overall length dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis;

a first refastenable seam extending from the waist opening to the first leg opening between the first side panel and the front panel;

a second refastenable seam extending from a waist opening to the first leg opening between the first side panel and the back panel;

a third refastenable seam extending from a waist opening to the second leg opening between the second side panel and the front panel; and

a fourth refastenable seam extending from a waist opening to the second leg opening between the second side panel and the back panel.

34.   (Twice Amended) An absorbent garment comprising:

a chassis including a front panel and a back panel, the front and back panels each having at least two fastening components bonded thereon, and partially defining a waist opening and first and second leg openings;

a first side panel including a substrate and at least two mating fastening components extending from the waist opening to the first leg opening, at least one of the mating fastening components releasably connected to at least one of the fastening components on one of the front and back panels; and

a second side panel including a substrate and at least two mating fastening components extending from the waist opening to the second leg opening, at least one of the mating fastening components releasably connected to at least one of the fastening components on one of the front and back panels;

wherein each of the first and second side panels has a linear waist edge, a leg edge at least a portion of which is curved, and an average length dimension measured parallel to a longitudinal axis that is at least 20 percent of an overall length dimension of the chassis measured parallel to the longitudinal axis.

No additional fee is due for this Amendment because the number of independent claims remains unchanged and the total number of claims also remains unchanged.